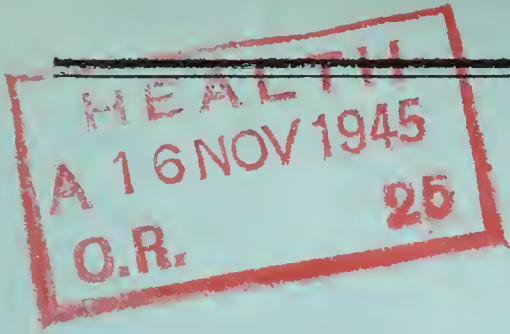


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NORTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

To the Chairman and Members of the Public Health Committee.

Mr. Chairman, My Lord, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit the report on the health of the district for the year 1944.

Statistics and Social Conditions of the Area.

Area in acres	92,279
Population (estimated) 1944	7,199
1939	7,882
Number of inhabited houses	2,068
Rateable value	£20,360
Product of a penny rate	£88

The district lies on the north-eastern boundary of the East Riding of Yorkshire, and the northern border is formed by the River Derwent from Staxton to Scrayingham, near Stamford Bridge. It comprises a large part of the Yorkshire Wolds, which run from East to West as far as Malton, and then turn South, and these Wolds, rising to a height of 600 feet above sea level, form the greater part of the area. The district is about 22 miles in length and eight miles wide, covering in all an area of 144 square miles.

The Wolds are a chalk formation and are thinly populated with scattered farmsteads. There are no large aggregations of population in the area, which contains 26 parishes made up of 48 villages and hamlets varying in numbers of inhabitants from a score to 700. There is no river or railway in the area, though the Gypsy Race, a miniature brook, rises from springs, runs through the area for six miles and then disappears underground again.

The scattered nature of the district makes the problems of water supply and of sewage disposal extremely difficult and costly, but a piped supply of water of good quality has been carried to almost the whole district, and to many of the outlying farms, and a survey of more than half of the area has been completed for sewage disposal schemes.

Electric current is also available over a large part of the district, and it is well used both for power and domestic purposes.

The sole industry of the district is agriculture and its hand maidens, and comprises all kinds of arable farming, dairy farming and sheep raising. There is little market gardening, but milk production has been vastly augmented, both as to quantity and improved methods of production.

The ravages of military operations are in process of being made good. There has been no unemployment during the war, and the increase of wages and of supplementary pensions have banished destitution.

Vital Statistics.

Extracted from the Registrar-General's figures.

		M.	F.	Total
Live Births—Total	... ..	79	56	135
Legitimate	... ..	64	49	113
Illegitimate	... ..	15	7	22
Birth Rate per 1,000 population	... ..	...	...	18.75
Birth Rate, 1943	... ..	...	...	18.5
England and Wales, 1944	... ..	...	...	17.6
Still Births—Male	4	} All legitimate.		
Female	2			
Rate per 1,000 births	... ..	...	...	47
Deaths	... ..	Total	M.	F.
	... ..	87	42	45
Rate per 1,000 population	... ..	...	...	12.1
Death Rate, 1943	... ..	...	...	12.8
England and Wales, 1944	... ..	...	...	11.6
Natural increase 6.7 per thousand.				

There was no maternal morbidity.

Four deaths were due to violence, one road accident, one fall, and one of each sex from suicide.

		Total	M.	F.
Deaths from Infants under one year of age	... ..	6	3	3
Legitimate	... ..	...	2	3
Illegitimate	... ..	...	1	—
Rate per 1,000 live births	... ..	...	...	44
England and Wales	... ..	...	...	46
Rate in 1943	... ..	...	...	70
Deaths from Cancer	... ..	...	...	15
Deaths from Measles	... ..	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Whooping Cough	... ..	...	...	Nil
Deaths from Diarrhoea and Enteritis (under 2 years)	... ..	...	...	Nil

The birth rate is still maintaining a steady increase, and the preponderance of male over female birth is more marked even than last year, being 79 to 56.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE DISTRICT.

Medical Officer of Health (Acting):

W. THISTLETHWAITE, M.B., Ch. B. (Part-time Officer).

Sanitary Inspector:

O. MILBURN, Cert.S.I.B., M.S.I.A., Certified Meat Inspector.

Nursing.

Two district nursing associations, at Westow and at Ganton, provide home nursing for a portion of the district.

The Westow and District Nursing Association, Nurse DENT, S.R.N., S.C.M., serves the villages of Westow, Langton, Acklam, Leavening, Burythorpe, Howsham, and North Grimston and Birdsall.

The Ganton and District Nursing Association, Nurse CURL, S.R.N., S.C.M., serves West and East Heslerton, Sherburn, Potter Brompton, Ganton, Binnington, Willerby and Staxton.

The associations are supported by private subscriptions, fees, local village endeavour and by grants from the County Council based on the midwifery work undertaken by the nurses, but the increased expenditure necessitated by the welcome adoption of the recommendations of the Rushcliffe report has thrown a heavy burden on to the small villages.

The nurses undertake general home nursing, maternity nursing and midwifery, infant welfare, and the care of indigent people.

An infant welfare centre holds a session at Sherburn every four weeks, has an attendance of from 30 to 50 children under five years of age, and is served by the medical officer and the district nurse.

In addition to the above facilities the county midwives from Norton and Bridlington undertake maternity work in the villages not covered by the two nursing associations.

The need for a district nursing service to provide general nursing over the whole area still obtains. The day has gone when home helps, handy women and good neighbours, with skill and sound sense were available in every village.

Medical Relief.

With the provision by the State of more generous pensions, and as an increasing number of persons become entitled through contribution or at a lower age level, the demand for relief is diminishing.

Those in receipt of supplementary pensions also receive medical attendance at need, and nursing service where available.

Laboratory Facilities.

These are satisfactory. Use has been made of the E.M.S. Laboratories at Driffield and Northallerton, and of the North Riding Laboratory at Scarborough.

Samples of water are analysed both chemically and bacteriologically, at regular, periodic and frequent intervals. They are taken from stand pipes in each village and also whenever necessary from private sources of supply.

Milk is collected by your officer from impromptu visits to dairies, and also before authorisation is given for the milk in schools supply schemes.

All clinical material is sent by the various individual practitioners in the district to the laboratory of their choice.

Ambulances.

No ambulance is maintained in the area since the Civil Defence ambulance was removed, but emergency cases are removed to hospital at Scarborough, Malton or Beverley by ambulances from those areas or by motor car.

Negotiations are in progress for the use at need of the Scarborough Police ambulance for the removal of road accidents, which tend to be numerous on the trunk road in time of peace.

Infectious cases are collected by the ambulance from the Isolation Hospital at Driffield, and make private arrangements for their return home.

Home Nursing.

As was mentioned earlier in this report, there is a marked need for home nursing in the whole district, and for the extension of the district nursing facilities to all the villages. No difficulty has been experienced in the provision of midwifery services for domiciliary attendance. This need must attend upon the national necessity. The Rushcliffe report has improved the financial attractions of the profession, but many with a vocation are deterred from entering by the long hours caused by under staffing, and by reports of the monotony of hospital meals.

Treatment Centres.

An infant welfare centre holds a session at Sherburn every four weeks and is popular. The standard of mothercraft, and the health and physique of children has improved in a marked degree during the last decade.

Hospitals.

There is no general hospital in the area. The General Hospital at Scarborough and the Cottage Hospital at Malton serve adequately all normal medical and surgical needs. In addition, the York County Hospital, the Leeds General Infirmary, and the Driffeld and Beverley Base Hospitals serve for extraordinary demands, and patients requiring brain surgery or radium have gone even further afield.

Infectious diseases are treated at the Isolation Hospital at Driffeld, or occasionally at Bridlington.

Abnormal maternity cases are sent to the County Council "Avenue" Maternity Hospital at Bridlington.

The Westow Croft Emergency Maternity Hospital for Evacuated Mothers, situate at Westow in this area, has now been taken over by the County Council for the reception of normal maternity cases.

Clinics.

Excellent facilities are available on the borders of the district:—

Tuberculosis—Every four weeks at Norton.

Orthopaedic—Every four weeks, during school terms, at Scarborough, Malton and Driffeld.

Venereal Diseases—Four sessions each week at York and Scarborough.

Housing.

The eight houses for agricultural workers were completed and occupied during the year. There are two pairs at Wintringham and two pairs at East Heslerton, and all reach a high standard by modern requirements.

A considerable post-war housing programme has been undertaken, and sites have been chosen, surveyed for lay-out, and in some cases purchased, in many of the villages.

It is proposed to erect 186 houses, all of which are of the permanent type, as being more suitable to the extreme climatic conditions experienced in such an exposed countryside than would be the temporary type.

Sixteen of these houses are to be of the Swedish timber construction.

Sewage Disposal.

There is no sewage disposal scheme in the district, and no nuisance exists. The pail closet and the earth closet predominate as is general in Rural England, but an increasing number of private owners have installed water closets with their own septic tank, since piped water supplies became generally available. The 184 houses built and owned by the authority have chemical closets, together with septic tanks for the disposal of bath and sink waste.

One modern sewage disposal plant serves the Agricultural Workers' Hostel at Sherburn, now occupied by war prisoners.

The Council has felt a deep concern on this subject, and has devoted much time, thought and labour to it. A survey has been completed for sewage disposal for the whole of the eastern and larger portion of the district.

The problem is vast, involving as it does 48 small, widely scattered and far from wealthy villages and hamlets, neatly divided by a range of hills rising to a height of 600 feet above sea level.

But it is a problem which should be solved, and which has been rendered more acute by the supply of piped water supplies to the whole district.

An increasing strain has been thrown on the sanitary resources by the three large military camps for mechanised manœuvres in the area, and by their subsequent adoption as camps for war prisoners, but precautionary measures have been taken, by stepping up the chlorination of water supplies, and by close supervision of the disposal of camp refuse.

Water Supply.

The district has an abundant supply of water, of good quality, provided by springs rising out of the chalk of the Wolds. There are four principal regional supplies serving the greater part of the district, with electrical pumping stations:—

1. Acklam. This serves the villages of:—
Acklam, Scrayingham, Leppington, Westow, Eddlethorpe, Menethorpe, Kennythorpe and Langton.
2. Wharram. Which serves:—
Wharram Percy, Wharram le Street, Duggleby, Kirby Grindalythe, West Lutton, East Lutton, Helperthorpe, Weaverthorpe, Butterwick, Boythorpe and Foxholes.
3. Sherburn. Which supplies:—
Staxton, Willerby, Binnington, Ganton, Potter Brompton, Sherburn, East Heslerton, West Heslerton and Knapton.
4. Wintringham. Supplying:—
Wintringham, Scampston, Rillington, Scagglethorpe, and outlying farms on the Wolds.

In addition to these supplies, the villages of Settrington, Leavening, Rillington, Thixendale and Yedingham have piped parish supplies, and Burythorpe, Birdsall, North Grimston, Thorpe Bassett, Howsham, Firby and High Mowthorpe have piped private supplies.

The Wharram scheme yields a maximum of 200,000 gallons per diem, falling to below 70,000 per diem when the springs are low, and with resident consumers taking 46,000 gallons daily, the military camps have thrown such a strain on the resources as to bring the supply below the margin of safety.

The Sherburn scheme, on the other hand, yields from 1,800,000 gallons in drought to 6,000,000 gallons in freshet, and with a present consumption of between 70,000 and 80,000 gallons daily, is well capable of supplying the whole district, if, as is contemplated, the various regional schemes were combined into one grid system.

The Thixendale parish piped supply, served by a hand pump, is inadequate and unsatisfactory. A Ministry enquiry decided that the needs of the village did not justify the expense of conveying a piped supply from Acklam, but a Council survey shows that in addition to the village needs there are 28 isolated Wold farms without water supply, most of which are producing milk for marketing, and in urgent need of an abundant supply of wholesome water.

Chlorination of the water from the regional supplies is carried out automatically at source, normally in the strength of 0.1 parts per million, but since the emergency this has been increased to 0.25 parts per million, which has been found sufficient to guard against pollution without causing any unpleasant side effects.

It is proposed to embrace the whole district in a uniform water charge, irrespective of the source of supply.

More than 90 per cent. of the inhabitants draw their water from public piped supplies, and of these, approximately 30 per cent. have water laid in to their houses.

THE REPORT OF THE SANITARY INSPECTOR.

Meat and Food Inspection.

Visits to licensed slaughterhouses, 145. Four notices were served for white-washing, etc., and were complied with.

Shop and Store Inspections.

Visits to shops and stores, 48. The undermentioned food was condemned as being unfit for human consumption:—

Milk, 323 tins; Beans, 147 tins; Tea, 48 lbs.; Plums, 7 lbs.; Bacon, 85 lbs.; Butter, 7 lbs.; Margarine, 72 lbs.; Oranges, 30 lbs.; Sugar, 1,106 lbs.

Analyses.

Samples taken from Public Supplies, 28. In all cases these were found to be highly satisfactory.

Samples taken from Private Supplies, 6. In all cases these were found to be satisfactory, with the exception that slight pollution takes place at times due to non-faecal organisms.

Housing and Inspections under Circular 2871.

Number of houses inspected due to complaints of overcrowding and structural defects, 148. Number of informal notices served, 16. All were complied with.

Number of houses inspected under Circular 2871, 22. Number of certificates certified, 21.

Inspections under Nuisances, Sewerage and Drains, etc.

Number of inspections carried out, 643. Number of informal notices served, 72. All were complied with.

Open sewers, of which there are twelve, were cleaned out as often as possible, taking into account the serious lack of labour.

Milk and Dairies.

Number of inspections carried out, 172. Number of cowsheds and dairies inspected, 124. Number of informal notices served for white-washing and minor repairs, 12. In all cases these were complied with.

Refuse Collection and Disposal.

Every parish, with the exception of the undermentioned, have a regular refuse collection:—

Yedingham, Thorpe Bassett, Howsham, Firby, Scrayingham.
Disposal is by controlled tipping into the Council's refuse tips.

New Drainage Systems, etc.

Number of new drains and alterations to drains inspected, 23.
Number of plans of new buildings, 6.

PREVALENCE OF AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

Disease.	Total cases.	Admitted to hospital.	Deaths.
Scarlet fever	6	6	Nil
Whooping cough	38	—	Nil
Diphtheria	Nil	—	Nil
Measles	25	—	Nil

Ninety children received immunisation against diphtheria during the year.

TUBERCULOSIS—NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

New Cases.				Deaths.			
Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.			Respiratory.	Non-Respiratory.		
Male. Female.	Male Female.			Male. Female.	Male. Female.		
3 5	— 2	...	—	2	—	—	—

New cases 10. Deaths 2.

In conclusion, may I express my thanks to the members of the Public Health Committee for their support and kindness during the year, and to the Officers and Staff of the Council for their willing help and co-operation.

WILFRED THISTLETHWAITE,
Temporary Medical Officer of Health.

8th October, 1945.

